IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1	1.	(Twice Amended) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a
2		fleet of vehicles, comprising:
3		a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations
4		relative to each other;
5	•	a plurality of user interface terminals at said plurality
6		of ports for receiving requests for vehicles from
7		the fleet; and
8		a computer system coupled for communication with said
9		plurality of user interface terminals and
10		programmed for:
11		in response to a user request received at a first
γ^{12}		port, defining a first vehicle search group
13		(VSG) of the first port;
14		in response to at least one vehicle in the first
15		VSG, allocating a vehicle therefrom to the
16		user request;
17		in response to no vehicle in the first VSG,
18		defining a second VSG of a second port;
19		in response to at least one vehicle in the second
20		VSG, selecting a vehicle therefrom for
21		allocating to the user request; and
22		in response to selecting a vehicle from the second
23		VSG, generating a relocation request of the
24		selected vehicle from the second port to the
25		first port.

1	8.	(Twice Amended) A method for sharing a fleet of vehicles,
2		comprising:
3		providing a plurality of interface terminals at a
4		plurality of ports at geographically remote
5		locations relative to each other;
6		receiving a request for a vehicle from the fleet from a
7		user at an interface terminal of a first port;
8		transmitting the request to a central computer; and
9		executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
10		computer to perform:
11		defining a first vehicle search group (VSG) for the
12		first port and a second VSG for a second
13		port;
14		allocating to the request a vehicle from the first
15		VSG in response to a suitable vehicle present
16		in the first VSG;
17		allocating to the request a vehicle from the second
18		VSG in response to no suitable vehicle
19		present in the first VSG; and
20		generating a command for relocating the allocated
21		vehicle from the second port to the first
22		port in response to allocating a vehicle from
23		the second VSG.
1	10	(Twice Amended) A method as resited in claim & wherein

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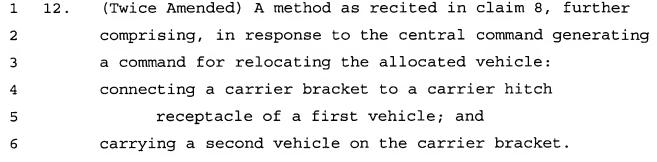
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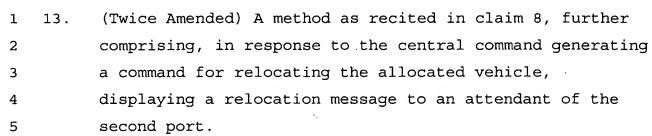
the step of defining a first VSG further includes

a preset time period in the first VSG.

including vehicles due to arrive at the first port within

1	11.	(Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, further
2		comprising, in response to the central command generating
3		a command for relocating the allocated vehicle:
4		connecting a first end of a tow bar to a trailer hitch of
5		a first vehicle and a second end of the tow bar to
6		a trailer hitch of a second vehicle; and
7		towing the second vehicle with the first vehicle.





1 14. (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein
2 executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
3 computer further includes defining the second VSG
4 different than the first VSG.



1	15.	(Twice Amended) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a
2		fleet of vehicles, comprising:
3		a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations
4		relative to each other;
5		a computer system in communication with said plurality of
6		ports and programmed to defining a search depth
7		vehicle search group (VSG) for each port in which
8		one or more available vehicles from the fleet may
9		be located at any given time for possible
10		allocation to a user at the port, determine a
11		number of vehicles in a first search depth VSG of a
12		first port and, in responses thereto, to determine
13		whether additional vehicles should be relocated to
14		the first port; and
15		means for relocating one or more vehicles from a second
16		port to the first port, upon a determination by
17	,	said computer system that additional vehicles
18		should be relocated to the first port.

locations relative to each other; providing a central computer in communication with the 5 plurality of ports; 6 7 executing a vehicle allocation program at the central computer to perform: 8 defining a first vehicle search group (VSG) for a 9 first port, in which one or more vehicles 10 from the fleet may be located at any given 11 time, and a second VSG for a second port, in 12 which one or more vehicles from the fleet may 13 14 be located at any given time; determining a number of available vehicles in the 15 first VSG; and 16

port; and

among one or more users, comprising:

(Twice Amended) A method for sharing a fleet of vehicles

providing a plurality of ports at geographically remote



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relocating one or more vehicles from the second port to

the first port, upon a determination by the central

computer that additional vehicles should be

relocated to the first port.

based on the number of available vehicles in the

first VSG, determining whether additional

vehicles should be relocated to the first

1	22.	(Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein
2		executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
3		computer further comprises:
4		detecting a location of each vehicle in the fleet;
5		transmitting the location of each vehicle to the central
6		computer; and
7		determining a number of vehicles within a designated area
8		with respect to the first port.



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- 23. (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein executing a vehicle allocation program at the central computer further comprises determining whether the number of vehicles within the designated area is below a preset value.
- 1 24. (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein
 2 executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
 3 computer further comprises determining whether the number
 4 of available vehicles in the first VSG is below a preset
 5 value.

Please add following new claims to the subject application.

27.	(New) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a fleet of
	vehicles, comprising:
	a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations
	relative to each other;
	a plurality of user interface terminals at said plurality
	of ports for receiving requests for vehicles from
	the fleet;
	a computer system coupled for communication with said
	plurality of user interface terminals and
	programmed for:
	in response to a user request received at a first
	port, defining a first vehicle search group
	(VSG) of the first port;
	in response to at least one vehicle in the first
	VSG, allocating a vehicle therefrom to the
	user request;
	in response to no vehicle in the first VSG,
	defining a second VSG of a second port;
	in response to at least one vehicle in the second
	VSG, selecting a vehicle therefrom for
	allocating to the user request; and
	in response to selecting a vehicle from the second
	VSG, generating a relocation request of the
	selected vehicle from the second port to the
	first port; and
	a vehicle transport device for transporting one or more
	vehicles from one port to another port, wherein:
	27.



28		at least one vehicle in the fleet includes a tow
29		hitch receptacle; and
30		said vehicle transport device comprises a tow bar
31		for coupling to a tow hitch receptacle and
32		connecting two vehicles together.
1	28.	(New) The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said
2		computer system is further programmed for including in
3		the first VSG vehicles due to arrive at the first port
4		within a preset time period.
1	29.	(New) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a fleet of
2		vehicles, comprising:
3		a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations
4		relative to each other;
5		a plurality of user interface terminals at said plurality
6		of ports for receiving requests for vehicles from
7		the fleet;
8		a computer system coupled for communication with said
9		plurality of user interface terminals and
10		programmed for:
11		in response to a user request received at a first
12		port, defining a first vehicle search group
13		(VSG) of the first port;
14		in response to at least one vehicle in the first
15		VSG, allocating a vehicle therefrom to the
16		user request;
17		in response to no vehicle in the first VSG,
18		defining a second VSG of a second port;



19	in response to at least one vehicle in the	second
20	VSG, selecting a vehicle therefrom for	r
21	allocating to the user request; and	
22	in response to selecting a vehicle from the	second
23	VSG, generating a relocation request of	of the
24	selected vehicle from the second port	to the
25	first port; and	
26	a vehicle transport device for transporting one of	r more
27	vehicles from one port to another port, whe	rein:
28	at least one vehicle in the fleet includes a	a
29	carrier hitch receptacle; and	
30	said vehicle transport device comprises a ca	arrier
31	bracket connectable to the said carrie	er hitch
32	receptacle of one vehicle, for carrying	ng a
33	second vehicle.	
1	30. (New) The system as recited in claim 29, wherein:	
2	said carrier bracket comprises a cycle carrier bra	acket
3	for carrying a cycle; and	
4	said second vehicle comprises a cycle.	